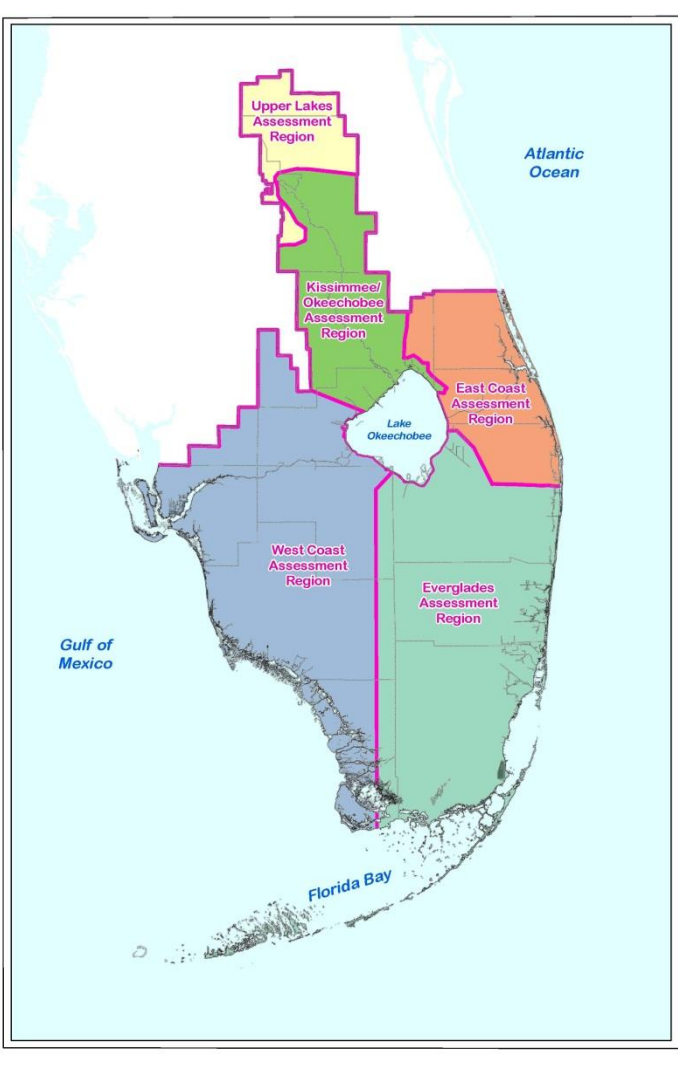




LAND ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS EVERGLADES REGION

Governing Board Meeting – Item #45
September 12, 2013
Ray Palmer, Real Estate Section Leader

Summary of Land Assessment Process



- Over 743,000 acres assessed
- 97.1% of District fee owned lands retained for District use
- Received nearly 1,500 public and stakeholder responses
- Received over 400 District staff (Subject Matter Experts) responses
- 12 regional public meetings
- 24 presentations at WRAC and GB meetings

Summary of Process (continued)

- Over 2,200 pages were uploaded to the Land Assessment webpage
 - 600 pages of land profiles
 - 1,600 pages of public and SME comments, recommendations, and various other documents
- 16 news releases and media advisories
- Nearly 15,000 page views on the webpage and comment forms

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Land Assessment

RELATED LINKS

- Public Comment Form – Draft Recommendations for Everglades Assessment Region
- Land Assessment Materials by Region
- Objectives and Evaluation Criteria
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Land Assessment Schedule [PDF]
- Land Management
- Land Resources
- Surplus Land
- Projects by Region
- Recreation
- Mitigation Program
- Natural Resources Monitoring
- Vegetation and Exotic Control
- Governing Board
- Water Resources Advisory Commission

SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

An online comment form is available for anyone who wants to provide feedback on draft staff recommendations for properties in the Everglades Assessment Region.

Everglades Assessment Region

The District is accepting public comments on draft staff recommendations for the Everglades region through **Sept. 9**. SFWMD staff also hosted a workshop on Aug. 28 to receive further public input.

Land Assessment To-Date

The District has so far completed the assessment of more than 300,000 acres of fee-owned lands in four regions – Upper Lakes, Kissimmee/Okeechobee, East Coast and West Coast. More than 97 percent of the acreage in these regions was recommended to remain in its current use.

- Submit Public Comments – Everglades Region
- Regional Land Portfolios and Staff Recommendations
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Land Assessment Schedule [PDF]

Over six decades, the South Florida Water Management District has acquired nearly 1.5 million acres of land within its 16-county jurisdiction to support flood control infrastructure, protect water resources and restore impaired ecosystems.

As part of a broad effort to maximize its resources to meet mission-critical responsibilities, the District is conducting a comprehensive land assessment to ensure that each parcel is being put to its most effective use. The assessment process is similar to efforts being undertaken by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the state's four other water management districts.

Now under way, the first phase of the SFWMD land assessment is a review of fee-owned lands – approximately 750,000 acres in which the agency has full or shared ownership rights. This part of the process is scheduled for completion by September 2013. A review of non-fee-owned lands is planned to follow beginning in June 2014.

In the News

- SFWMD Releases Draft Land Recommendations for Everglades Region (Aug 22)
- Central Everglades Planning Project Moves Forward (Aug 18)
- Draft Land Assessment Recommendations Made for West Coast Region (Jul 26)
- Phosphorus Reductions Continue to Improve Everglades Water Quality (Jul 19)
- SFWMD Makes Draft Recommendations for Lands in East Coast Region (Jun 21)

NEWS ARCHIVE

Restoration Strategies for Everglades Water Quality

Related Contacts

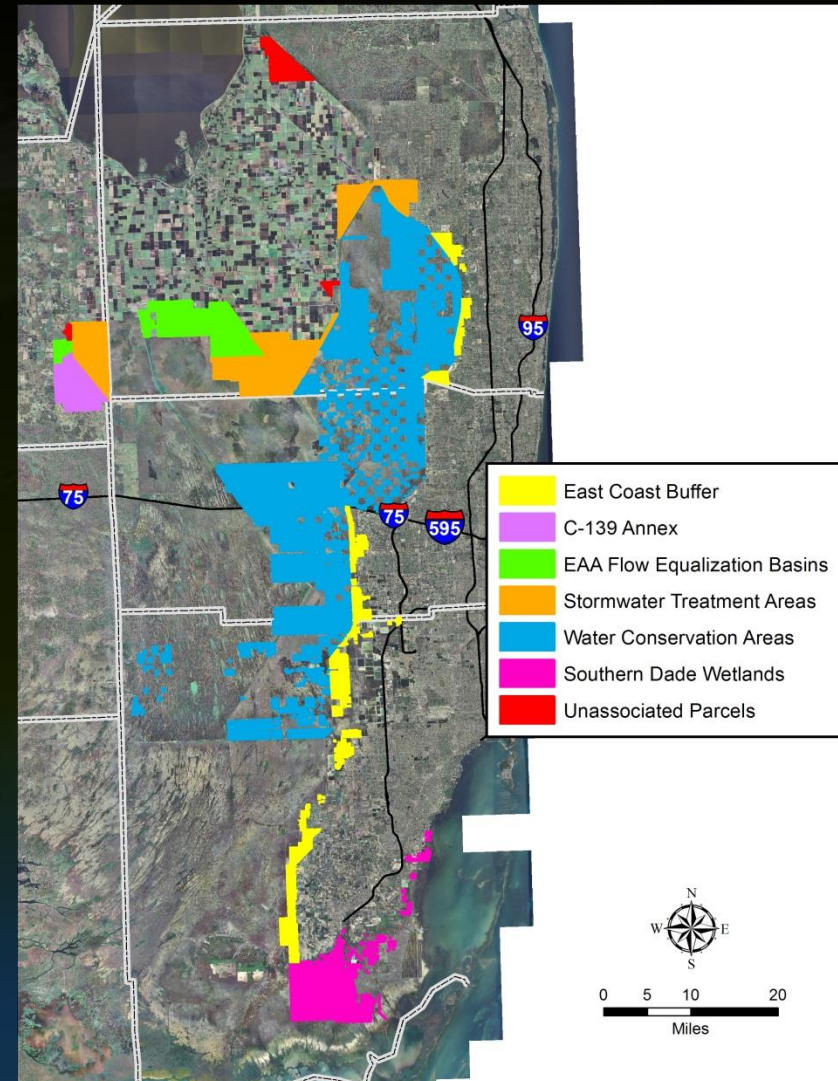
- SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS – Draft Recommendations for Everglades Region
- Subscribe to Land Assessment Email Updates: eschwartz@sfwmd.gov
- Ray Palmer: rpalmer@sfwmd.gov (305) 853-2248

Upcoming Events

- Business Matchmaker Conference and Expo – Sept. 26, 9 a.m.
- DB/HYDRO Environmental Database Training
- Long-Term Plan Quarterly Communications Meetings [PDF]
- Governing Board Meetings Schedule [PDF]
- Governing Board Meetings, Agencies and more

Everglades Region Results Summary

- More than 439,202 acres in the Everglades region
- Over 97.2% of total acreage recommended to remain in current use
- 12,341 acres to be recommended for disposition (mostly for exchange)



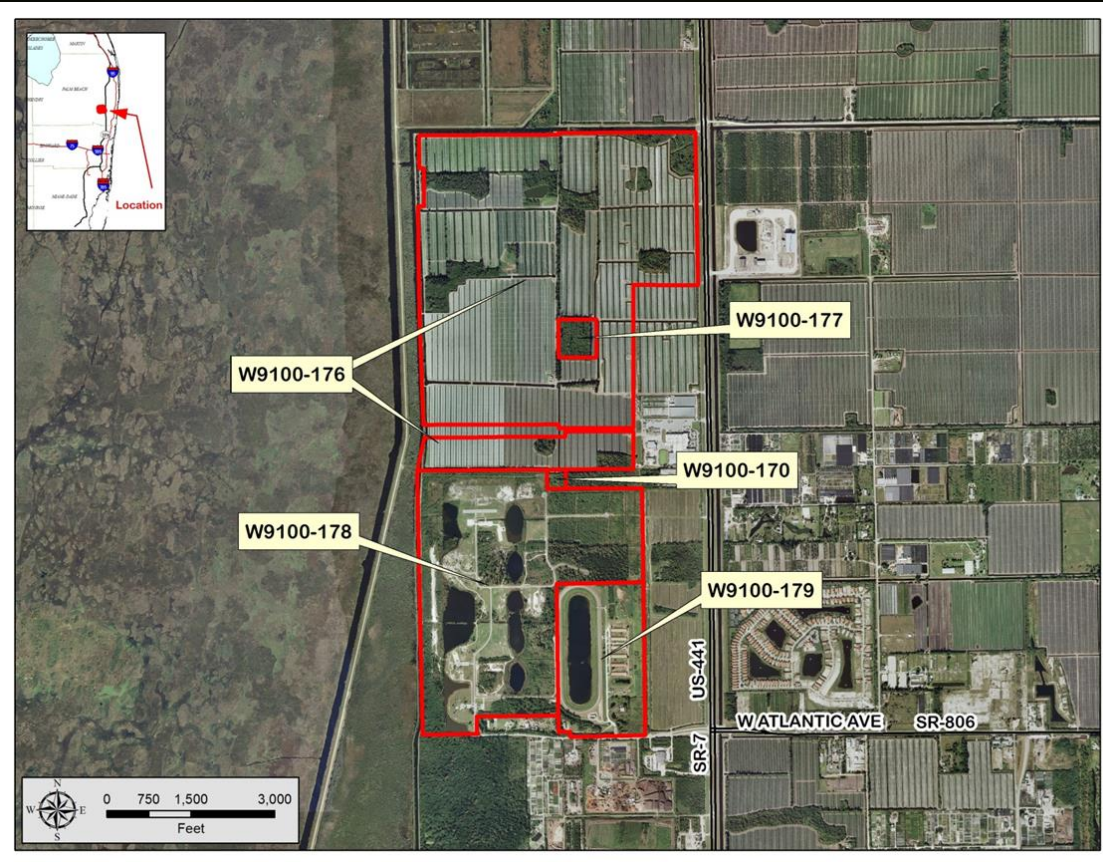
Everglades Assessment Region

**Lands Recommended
For
Exchange or Surplus**

12,341 acres

ECB* - Palm Beach Ag Reserve Area

994 acres

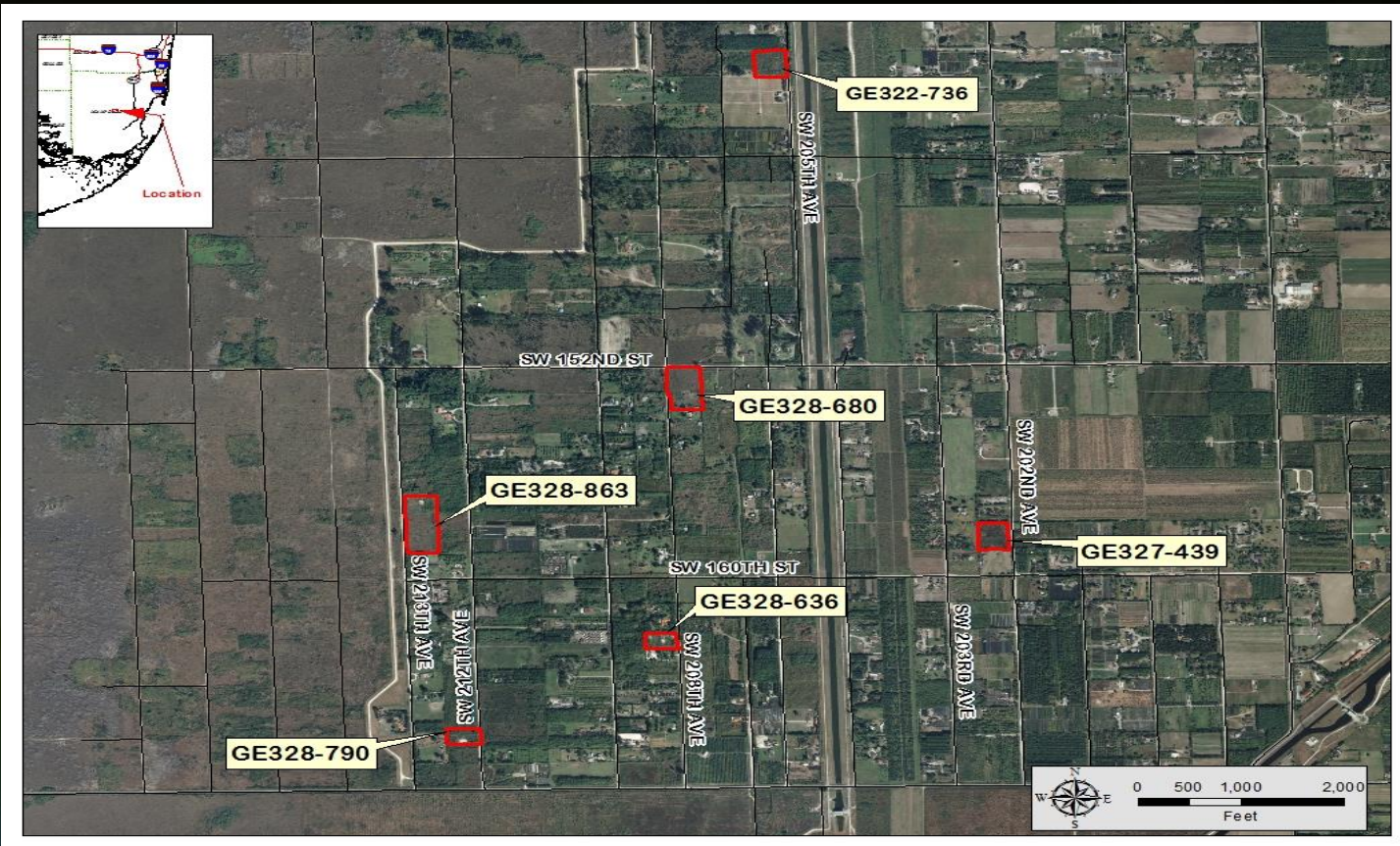


- Three existing leases
 - Vegetable crops (571 acres - jointly owned w/ PBC)
 - Horse training facility (85 acres)
 - PBC park (313 acres)
- Initial project plans changed

* ECB = East Coast Buffer area

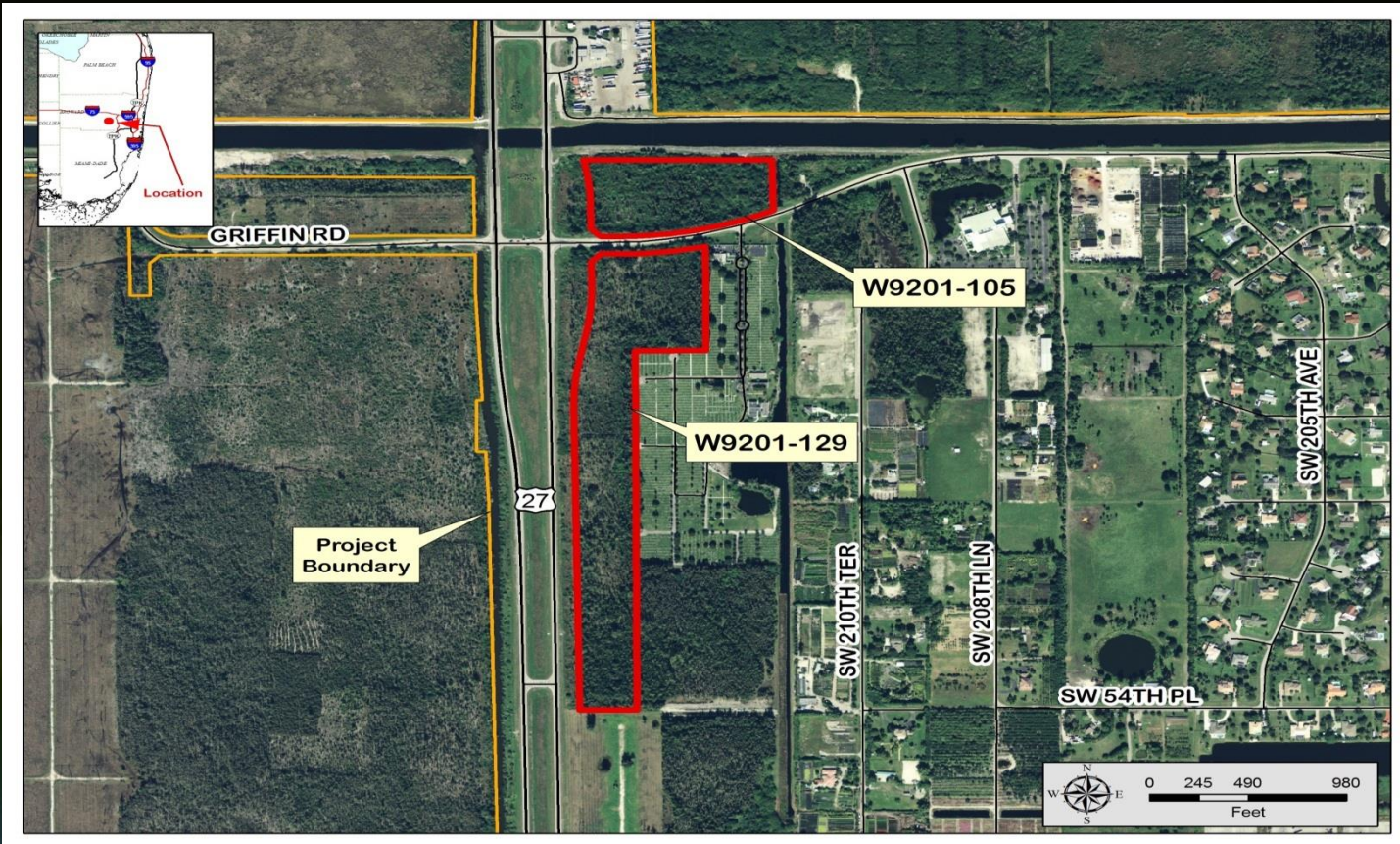
ECB - 8½ Square Mile Area

6 parcels – 16.05 acres (range 1.26 to 5 ac)



- Small parcels in area of rural agricultural and residential tracts
- East of perimeter levee and west of L-31 Canal

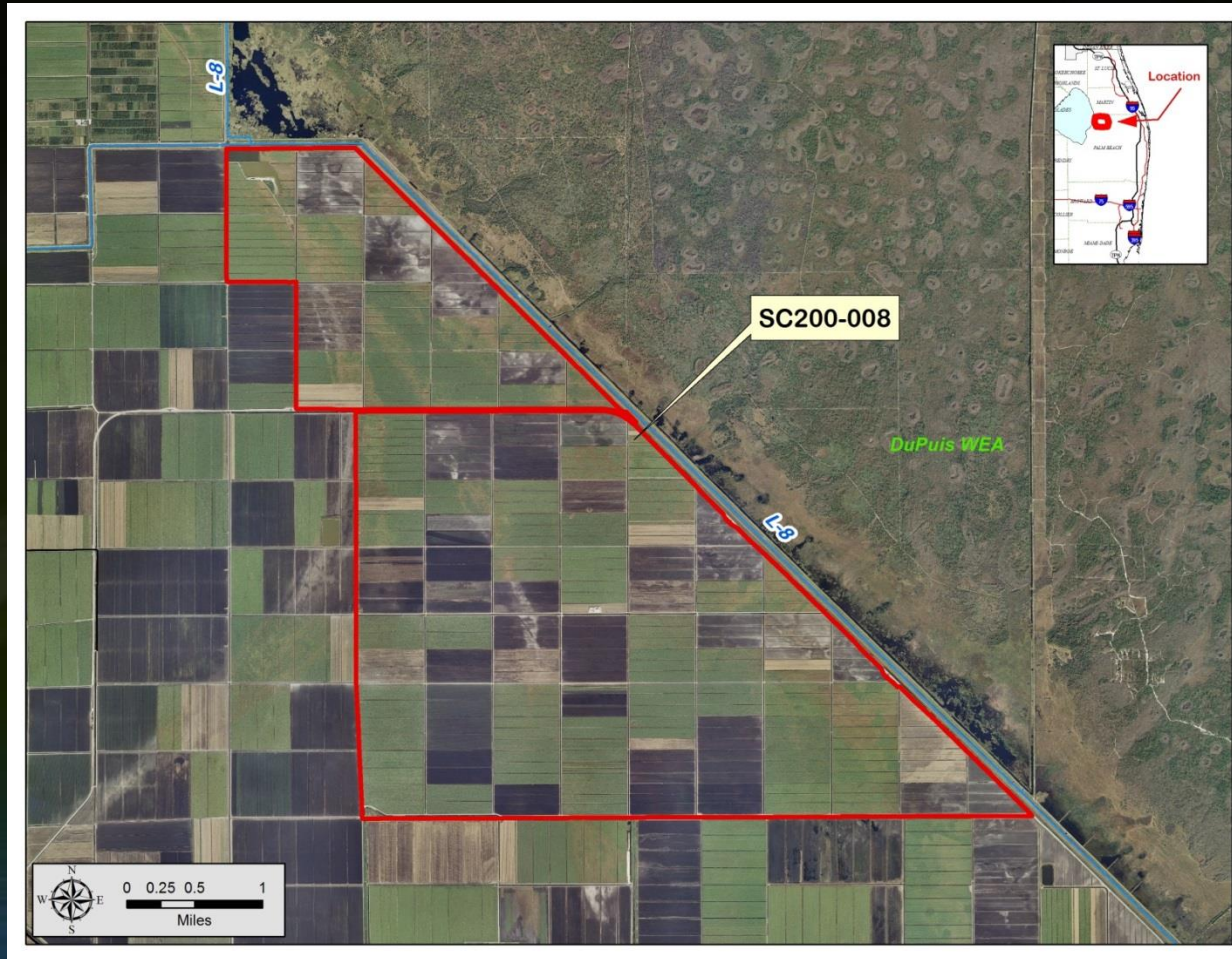
ECB - Broward County WPA – Griffin Road 32.65 acres



- Parcels are outside project boundary
- East of Hwy 27 and south of C-11 Canal

Everglades Ag Area - L-8 Parcel

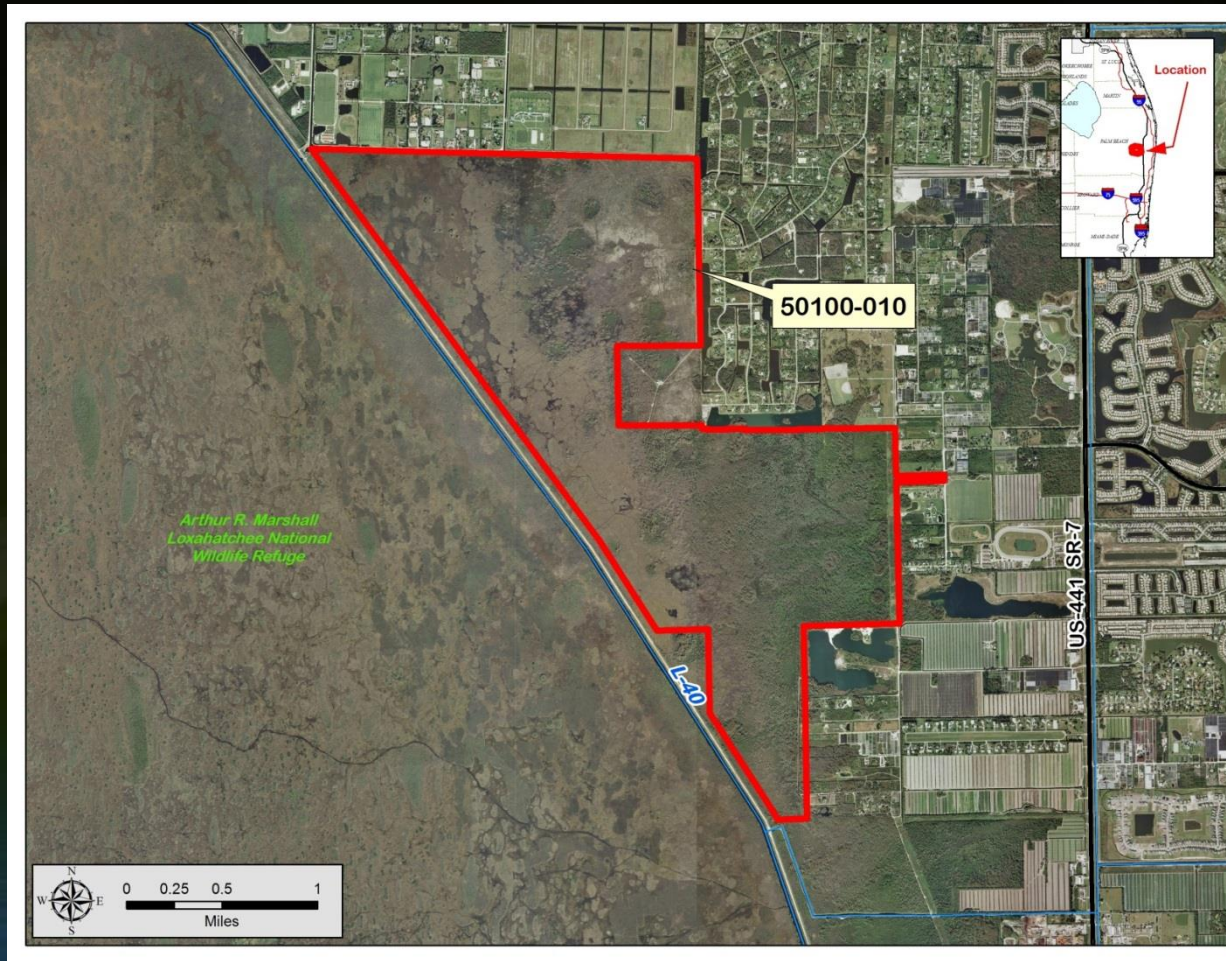
8,712 acres



- Proposed exchange for STA-1W expansion lands

ECB – Strazzulla Parcel

2,585 acres



- Proposed exchange with Dept. of Interior for EAA lands

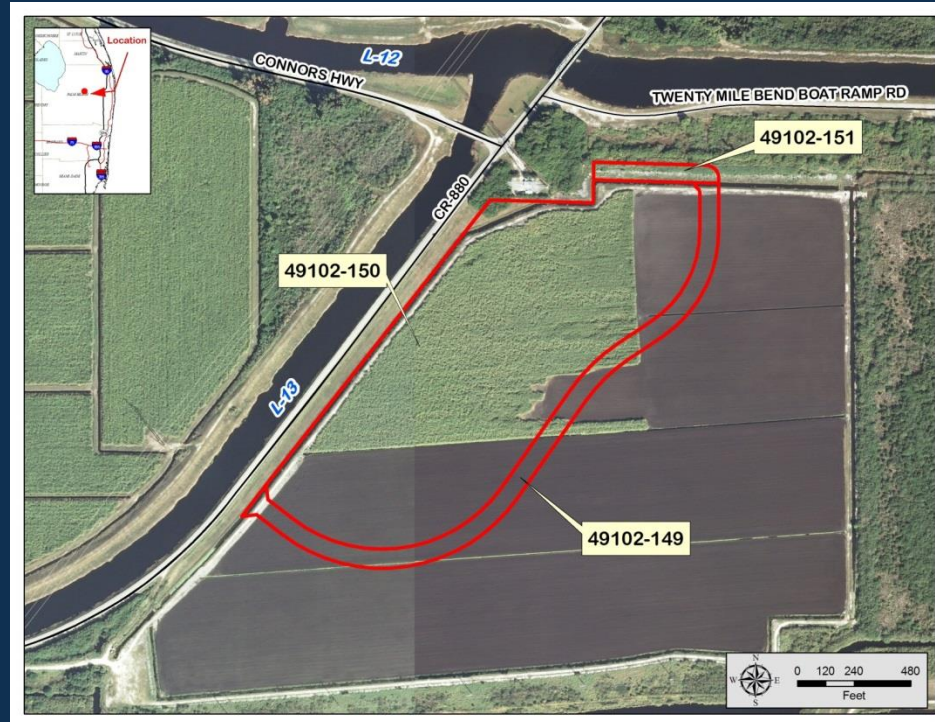
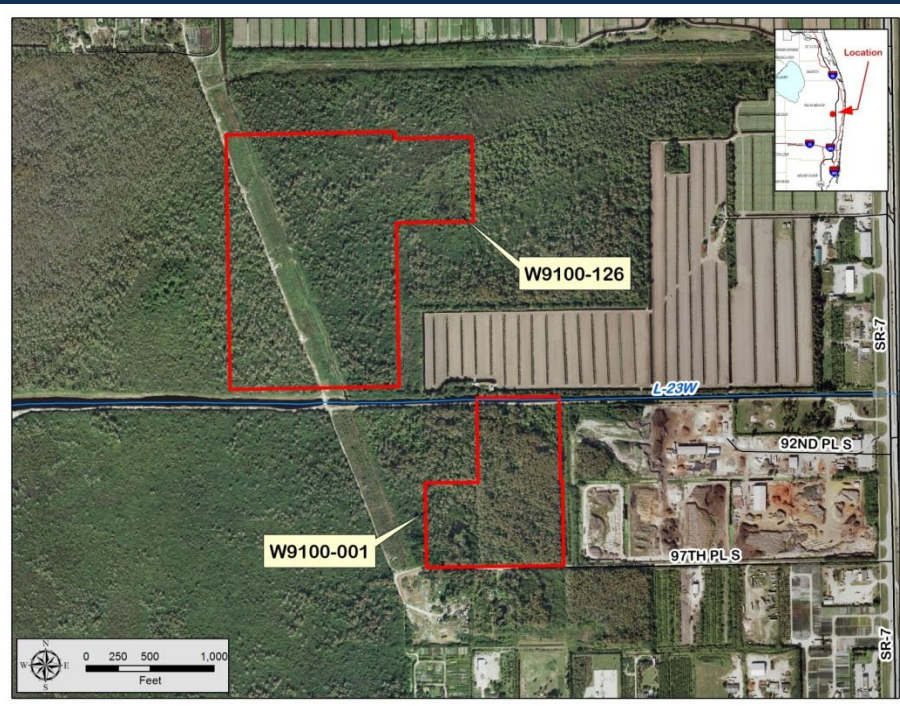
Everglades Assessment Region

**Lands Recommended
for
No Change in Use**

426,861 acres

No Change in Use

- ECB – Chingos Parcels
- 95.06 acres
- Palm Beach



- STA-1W – Outparcel
- 39.92 acres
- Palm Beach
- All STA properties
- 66,021 acres

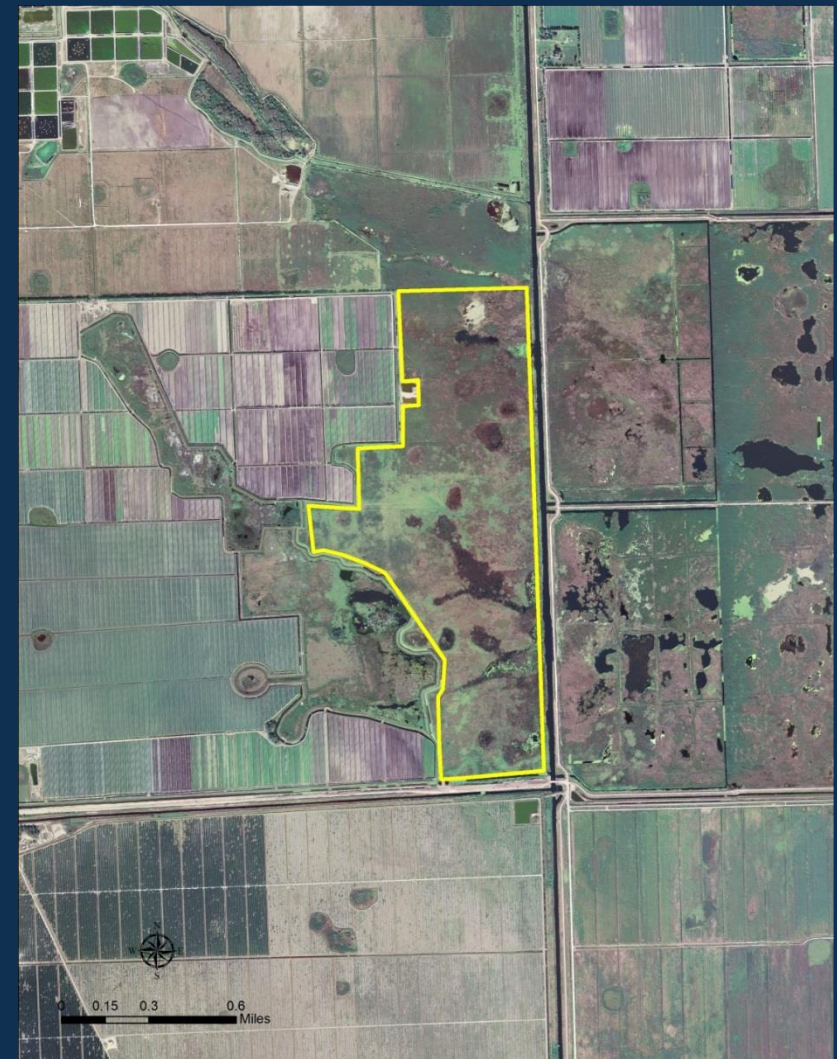
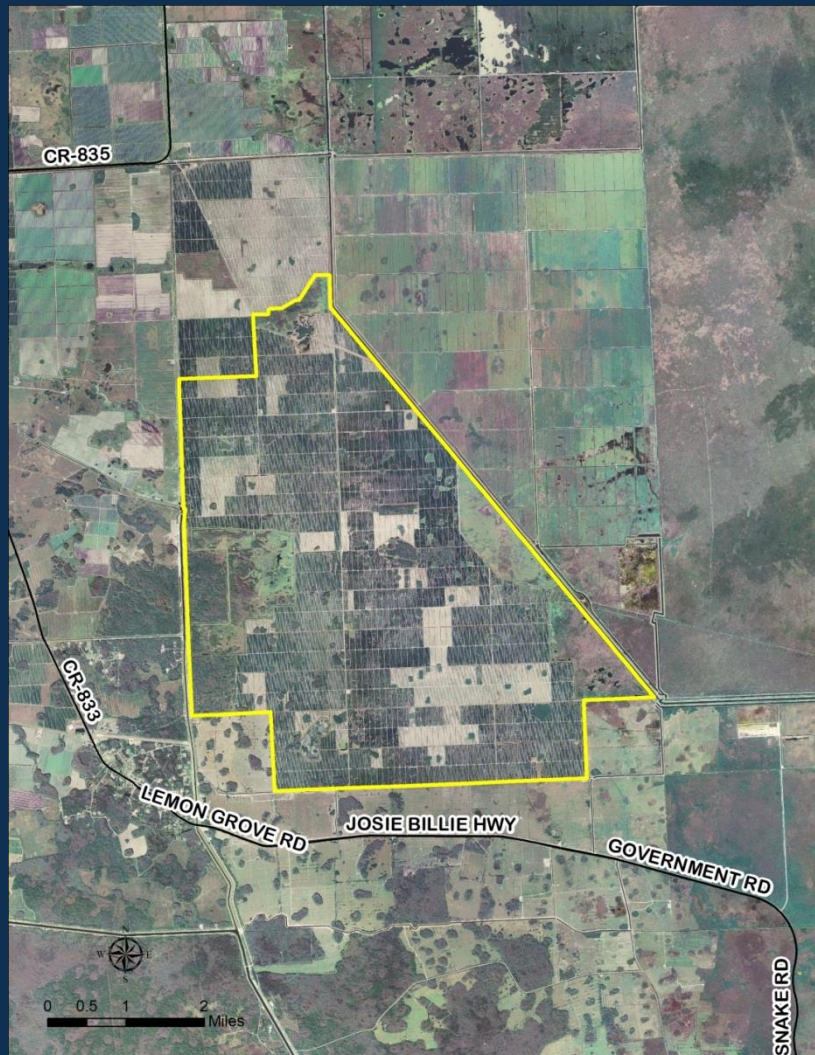


- ECB – Lox Mitigation Bank
- 1,256 acres
- Palm Beach

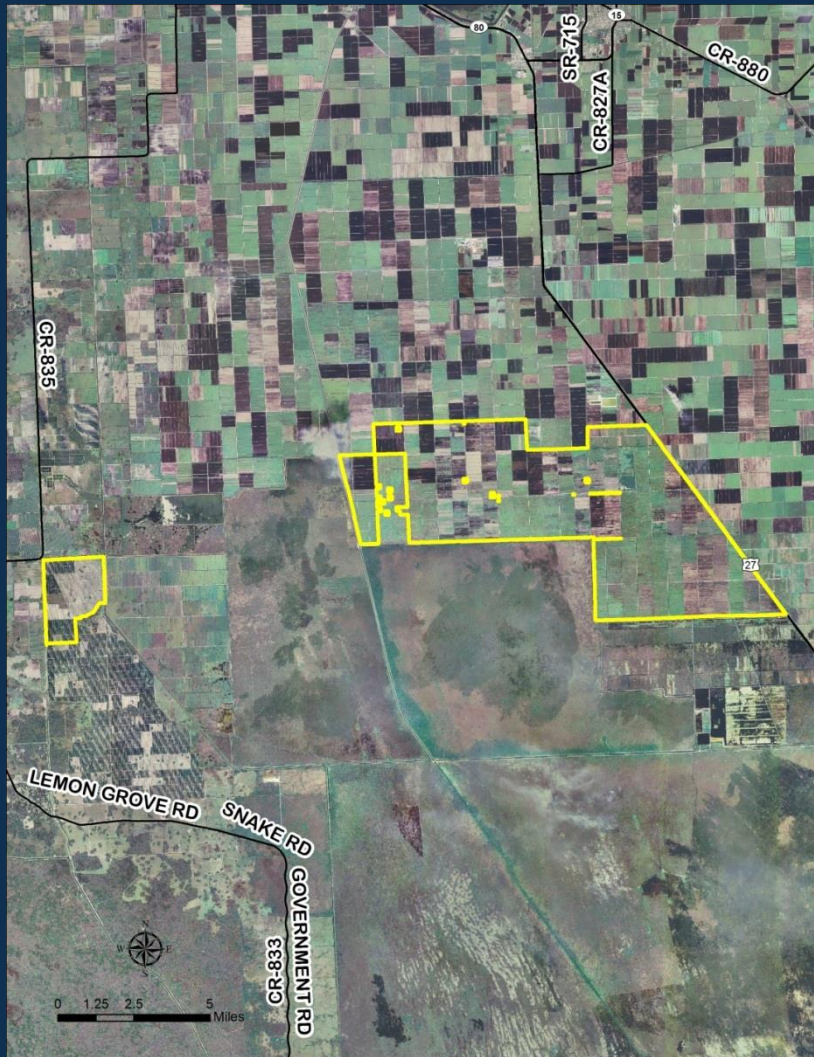
- SR 827 Parcel
- 800 acres
- Palm Beach



- C-139 Annex (~15,000 acres)
- Sam Jones /Abiaka Restoration Area
- Hendry

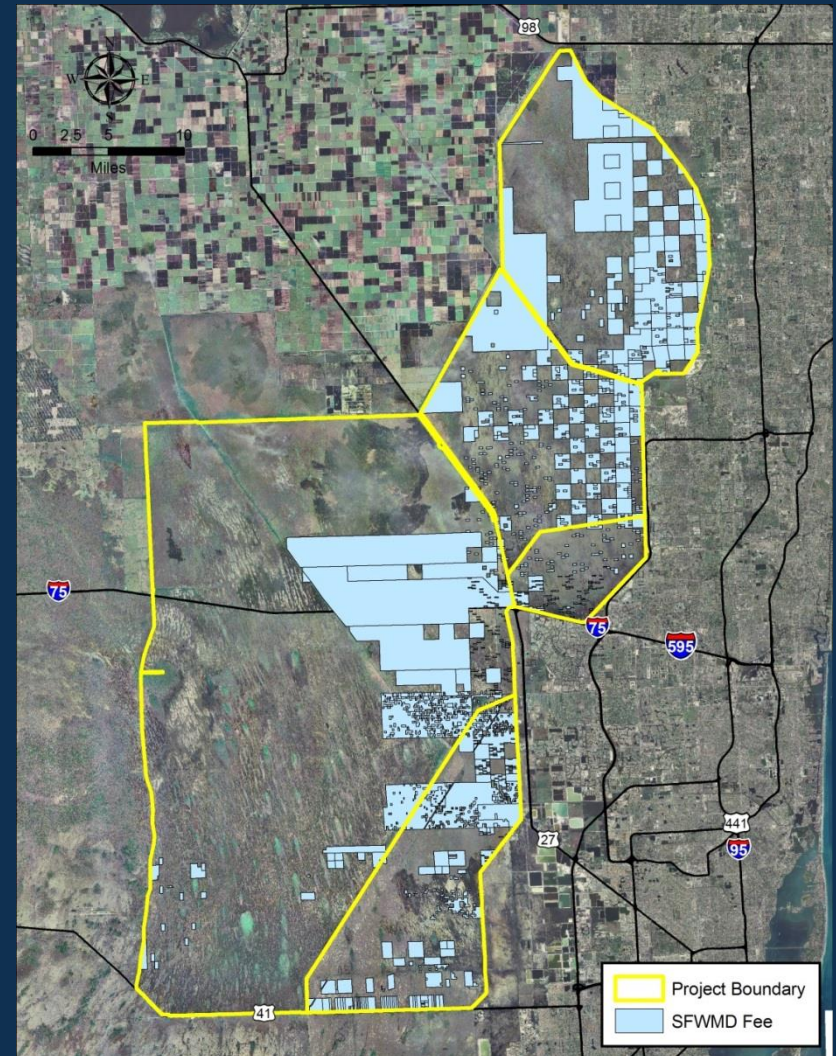


- Deer Fence Parcel
- 500.43 acres
- Hendry

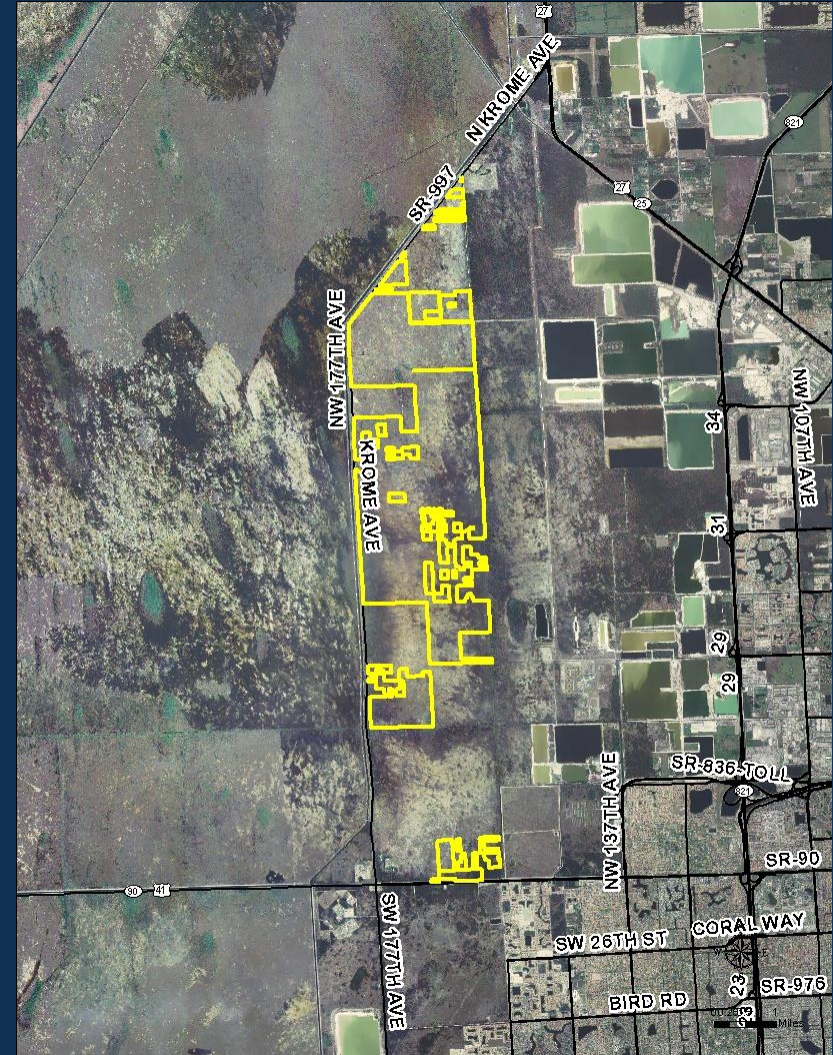
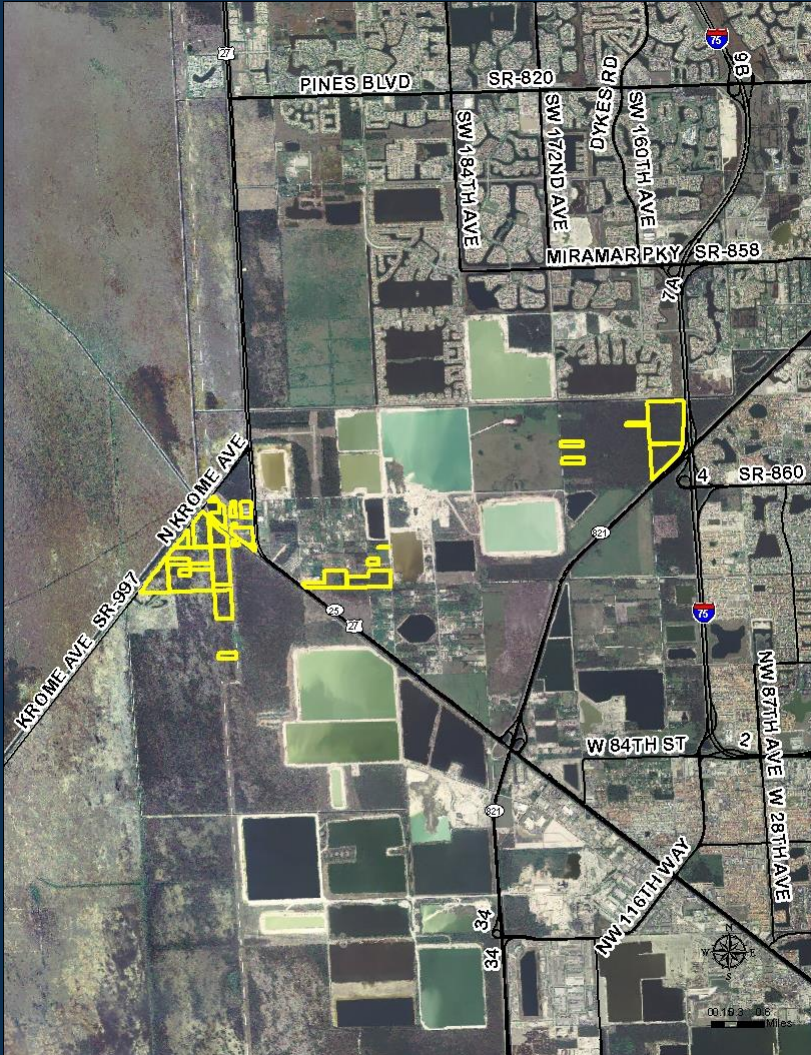


- Flow Equalization Basins
- 34,760 acres
- Hendry and Palm Beach

- Water Conservation Areas
- 242,349 acres
- Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade

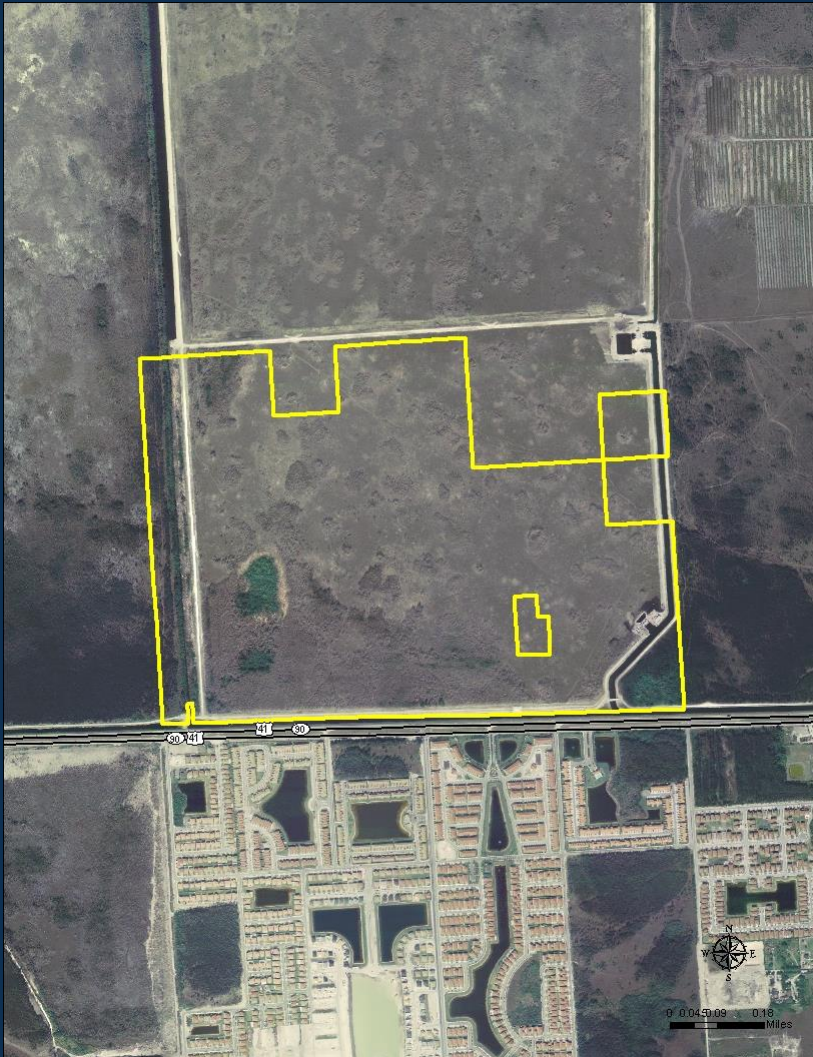


- ECB - Lakebelt Area
- 717 acres
- Miami-Dade County



- ECB – Pennsuco Area
- 5,806 acres
- Miami-Dade County

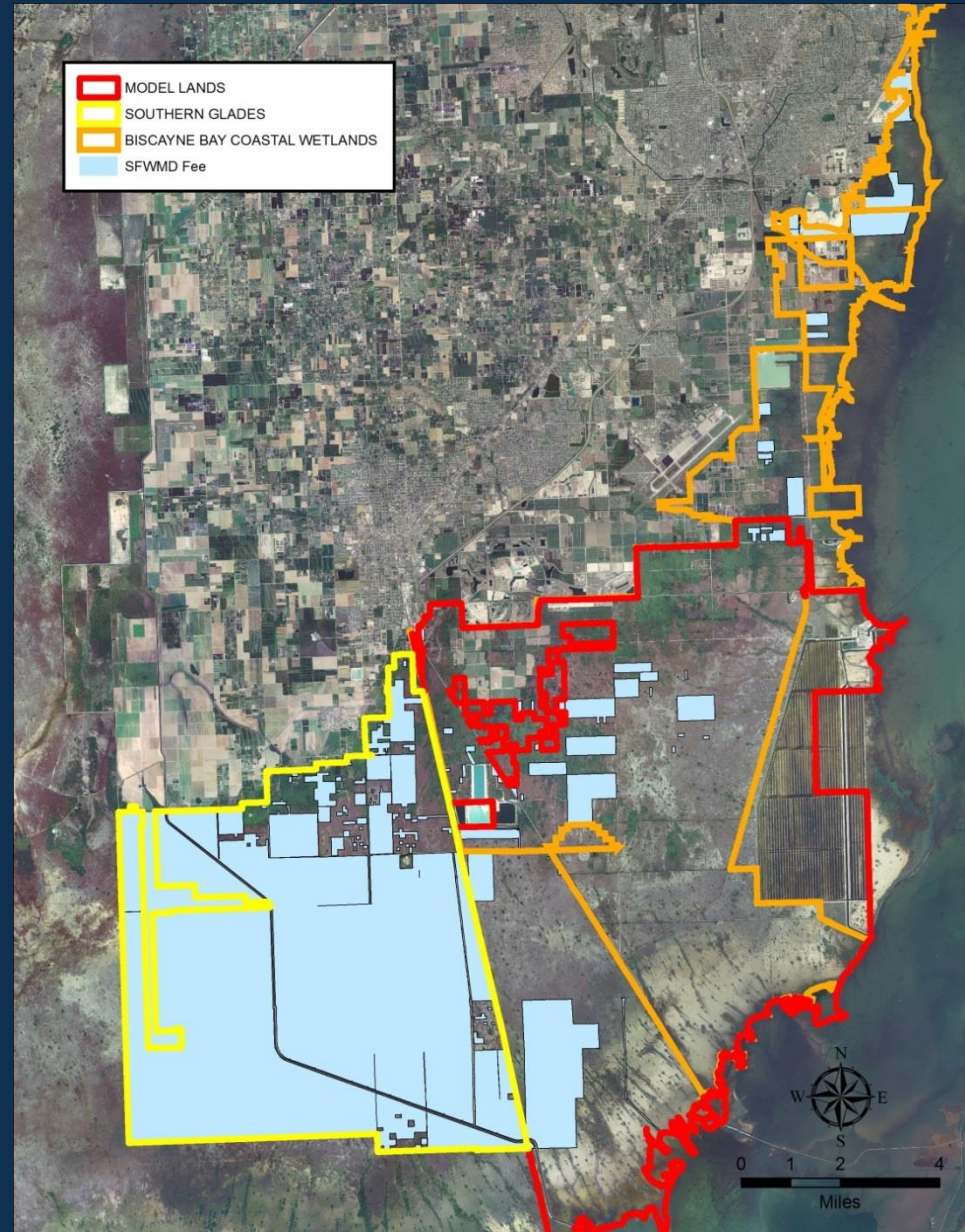
- ECB - L-31 N / Rocky Glades and Frog Pond
- 11,269 acres
- Miami-Dade



- ECB – C-4 Impoundment
- 386 acres
- Miami-Dade



- South Dade Wetlands
 - Southern Glades
 - Model Lands
 - Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- 29,194 acres
- Miami-Dade



Review of Process Steps

- **Request Governing Board approval to conduct more in-depth research on these properties**
- **Conduct the necessary due diligence on each property**
- **Present final parcel recommendation in a noticed public meeting such as the Project and Land Committee meeting**
- **Bring back a final recommendation to the Governing Board prior to an actual exchange or surplus action**

Land Assessment Project

*** The Superstars ***

- * **David Foote** Environmental Analyst – Land
- * **Sarah Franklin** Real Estate Geographer
- * **Andrea Schluter** Admin Assistant, Real Estate Management Section
- * **Susan Bennett** Multimedia Web Unit Supervisor – Office of Comm.
- * **Jeremy Ashton** Sr. Public Information Coordinator, Web Unit
- * **Jane Walters** Sr. Multimedia Specialist, Web Unit
- * **Kimberly Montero** Lead System Analyst - IT Enterprise App. Unit

A special acknowledgement of the OMC - Land Resources Bureau managers for their guidance and support throughout this process

- * **Richard Bassell** Real Estate Management Section Administrator
- * **Dan Thayer** Land Resources Bureau Chief

RESOLUTION

A Resolution of the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, directing staff to move forward to analyze options, including but not limited to, disposal of land interests containing 12,341 acres, more or less, in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties, together with any structures and improvements and personal property appurtenant thereto, and thereafter propose recommendations to the Governing Board for further approval; providing an effective date. (OMC, Ray Palmer, ext. 2246)